



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

feel confident that certain Orioles' nests that I have seen in the misseltoe of the oaks, and others pendant from the oak boughs themselves, are, from their general character, those of the species in question.

BIRD NAMES OF THE SELISH, PAH-UTA AND SHOSHONI INDIANS.

BY W. J. HOFFMAN, M. D.

MOST of the data herewith submitted were obtained from the Selish, or Flathead, Indians, in Western Montana, who occupy a fertile region known as the Jocko Valley, which is bounded on the west by the Rocky Mountains. Other information was also obtained from the Pah-Uta Indians in the vicinity of Pyramid Lake, Nevada; from the Uta Indians of Los Pinos, Colorado, and the Shoshoni at Fort Hall, Idaho.

To obtain the names of birds from any aboriginal tribe is no slight task. The living specimen, of any given species, may be very familiar to them, but should the dead specimen be presented for identification, there is uncertainty and doubt, and frequently it will be impossible for the collector to receive any but a generic term, if even that. The reason for this is, that Indians, while close observers regarding flight, habits, or voice of the bird, are at a loss unless they kill a species and instantly pronounce their decision, the association of their own name with it being based upon one of these peculiarities. Some marked genera are readily identified by all the members of the tribe; and even species have peculiarities in color-markings, the shape of the bill, legs, etc., so that one may not always find the difficulties referred to.

There does not appear to be a division of birds, among any of our tribes, into Land Birds and Water Birds. But, on the contrary, there is a distinction between *large birds* and *small birds*. The latter are called *tsin-ka'-la* by the Dakota; *si-su'* by the Washo; *nu-tsi-pa'* by the Pah-Uta; and *ha'-wits* by the Uta. These names include even the Grouse and Wild Turkey, but should raptorial birds be referred to, though smaller than the last-

named, the particular designation would at once be furnished without reference to size, as the Raptore have, in each instance, names of a generic and specific character, or perhaps one only, implying something with reference to peculiarities of the beak, the claws, or the manner of grasping the prey. An instance of this may be observed in a *Falco* sp? of the 'Crow' Indians, viz: the *Absároka*, after which the tribe is named. The word *Absároka* is derived from *apíta*; *ap* an arrow point, a hook, and *'ta* to kill; *i.e.*, to kill with an arrow-pointed mouth. The latter portion of the word is not clear. The word for Crow (*Corvus*) in the same language is *pe-ri'-tshi*, and signifies 'to defile one's self.' With these few remarks I will proceed to the list of names, under which further discussion will be continued, when necessary. The orthography is phonetic, vowels having continental sound, and but two characters are introduced for which no representative sounds occur in English, viz:—

x, similar to the German *ch* in *nacht*, or rather the Spanish *j* in *mujer*. Equivalent to the Arabic *ghain*.

Q similar to German *ch* in *nicht*. The letters S., Sh., P., or U., in parentheses, refer respectively to Selish, Shoshoni, Pah-Uta, and Uta.

1. *Oreoscoptes montanus* (Townsend) Baird. SAGE THRASHER. *Tso'-num* (P.).—In the Pah-Ute mythology this bird was a great soldier, but on account of his being a cannibal, he was transformed into his present shape, and is compelled to dodge beneath the sage-brush.

2. *Cinclus mexicanus* Swains. WATER OUZEL. *Si'-am-bo'-gua-tsi* (Sh.).

3. *Sialia arctica* Swains. ROCKY MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. *N'l-x'kwí-kwa'-ia* (S.). This is also used as a generic term for all small birds of a blue plumage. The Shoshoni generic term is *wo-gwi'-do-ia*.

4. *Pyranga ludoviciana* (Wils.) Bp. WESTERN TANAGER. *Wa'-na-wi-ni* (P.). The Shoshoni general term for red birds is *enk'-hu-tshue* from *enk*, red, and *hu'-tshu*, bird.

5. *Loxia curvirostra americana* (Wils.) Coues. AMERICAN CROSSBILL. *Ai'-gu-sa'* (S.). The distortion of the mandibles was caused by the coyote. (*Myth.*)

6. *Xanthocephalus icterocephalus* (Bonap.) Baird. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. *S'ke-k'itsh-kla'* (S.); *pa-kó'-rop* (P.).

7. *Agelæus phœniceus* (Linn.) Vieill. RED-AND-BUFF-SHOULDERED BLACKBIRD. *K'itsh-kla* (S.); *i a'-pan* (P.), so called on account of the spots of color upon the shoulders, as he was an officer long ago. (*Myth.*) Both terms above given are also used by the tribes as referring to black birds generally.

8. *Sturnella neglecta* Aud. WESTERN MEADOW LARK. *We-wi'-su-lě*

(S.). In the mythology of the Selish, the coyote colored the Lark's breast with the yolk of an egg.

9. *Corvus corax carnivorus* (Bartr.) Ridgw. AMERICAN RAVEN. *Mě-lă'* (S.); *wi-hă'* (P.); *to-gwo'-ri-ka* (Sh.).

10. *Corvus frugivorus* Bartr. COMMON CROW. *Tsa-a'* (S.); *a-da'* (P.); *ta'-gu-uts* (U.); *kāk, kawk*, (Sh.). As above stated, the Absaroka call this bird *peritshi*—that which defiles itself. Usually the term is onomatopœtic in other languages.

11. *Gymnocitta cyanocephala* Max. PIÑON JAY. *Wi-a'* (P.). This was the daughter of the coyote. (Myth.)

12. *Pica rustica hudsonica* (Scop.) Baird. BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE. *A'dn* (S.); *ma'-gwits* (U.); *kwi'-ti-wut* (Sh.).

13. *Trochilus colubris* Linn. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Som-wě'* (P.); *qo'-nim-qo'-nim* (S.).

14. *Cypselus saxatilis* Woodh. WHITE-THROATED SWIFT. *Măb'n-kwīt-sěn* (S.).—A name was given to me by the Shoshoni for one species which frequents the water, but which was not identified. It is undoubtedly another genus. They term it *pah'-sho-gum'-bits*—'skim-over-the-water.'

15. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli* (Aud.) Ridgw. POORWILL. *Spās* (S.); *wa'-ia-wi* (P.).

16. *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi* Ridgw. CALIFORNIAN WOODPECKER. *S'pu'-al'-χa* (S.).

17. *Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis* Baird. RED-NAPED WOODPECKER. *Ho-to-to'-ro-pě* (Sh.).

18. *Picus villosus harrisi* (Aud.) Allen. HARRIS'S WOODPECKER. *Stěl-qū'* (S.).

19. *Colaptes auratus mexicanus* (Sw.) Ridgw. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER. *Kul-kul-ětsh'* (S.); *i'-tsa-bă'-ni* (P.).

20. *Ceryle alcyon* (Linn.) Boie. KINGFISHER. *Smă-tskě'ug* (S.).

21. *Asio americanus* (Steph.) Sharpe. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL. *N'spu-ish'n-i-mě'* (S.).

22. *Scops asio* (Linn.) Bp. LITTLE SCREECH OWL. *N'tshit-qě'* (S.); *ha'-mi-tse* (Sh.).

23. *Bubo virginianus subarcticus* (Hoy) Ridgw. WESTERN HORNED OWL. *Sni'-ně-e* (S.); *mú'-mbits* (Sh.).

24. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa* (Bp.) Ridgw. BURROWING OWL. *Tin-tsan'-in-de'-iq* (Sh.). This is the prairie dog's brother-in-law. (Myth.)

25. *Falco peregrinus nævius* (Gm.) Ridgw. DUCK HAWK. *Hă-tát* (S.).

26. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis* (Gm.) Ridgw. FISH HAWK. *Tsi-ug-tsuq'* (S.), the coyote's cousin.

27. *Circus hudsonius* (Linn.) Vieill. MARSH HAWK. *Păn-tsi'* (Sh.); *kî-ni'* (P.).

28. *Buteo borealis calurus* (Cass.) Ridgw. WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. *Tsěl-tsěl-tshi-mű'* (S.); *sa'-na-kwi'-na* (Sh.).

29. *Aquila chrysaëtus canadensis* (Linn.) Ridgw. GOLDEN EAGLE. *Meł'-kě-nô'* (S.); *kwi-na'* (P.). *Kwa-nuts'* (U.), is a term applied to Eagles generally.
30. *Haliaëtus leucocephalus* (Linn.) Savig. BALD EAGLE. *P'kal-qke'* (S.).
31. *Cathartes aura* (Linn.) Illig. TURKEY BUZZARD. *Tsa'kô-wi-a* (S.); *to-gwo'-ri-ka*—'snake eater' (Sh.).
32. *Zenaidura carolinensis* (Linn.) Bp. MOURNING DOVE. *Wa'-u-ia'-ûk* (S.); *hă-wô* (Sh.). A generic term.
33. *Meleagris gallopavo* Linn. WILD TURKEY. *Ko'-io-nit* (Sh.).
34. *Canace obscura* (Say) Bp. DUSKY GROUSE. *Wûng-gô'-wa* (Sh.).
35. *Bonasa umbella* (Linn.) Steph. RUFFED GROUSE. *Ka'-χit'-sě* (S.); *kwi'-ût* (U.).
36. *Centrocercus urophasianus* (Bp.) Swains. SAGE COCK. *S'ká* (S.); *hu-tsi'* (P.); *hu'-dsha* (Sh.).
37. *Lophortyx californica* (Shaw) Bp. CALIFORNIA QUAIL. *Ka-ka-pu'u* (P.). The last syllable is almost silent and the head, in speaking, is dropped downward on the breast. The Indians state that "this is the way the bird calls himself." Another instance of onomatopœia.
38. *Ardea herodias* Linn. GREAT BLUE HERON. *Sá-má-ku-e-i'* (S.).
39. *Nyctiardea grisea nœvia* (Bodd.) Allen. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Sma-tske'-uq* (S.); *ua-sha'* (P.).
40. *Numenius hudsonicus* Lath. HUDSONIAN CURLEW. *Ha-wit'-ha-wit'* (S.).
41. *Numenius longirostris* Wils. LONG-BILLED CURLEW. *Hě'-kôn* (Sh.).
42. *Fulica americana* Gmel. AMERICAN COOT. *Stěł-ăk'-sha* (S.); *sai-a'* (P.).
43. *Grus canadensis* (Linn.) Temm. SANDHILL CRANE. *Skwal-tshin'* (S.); *kor-de'-de'u* (P.); *ko'-an-dă-tă* (Sh.).
44. *Olor americanus* (Sharpless) Bp. WHISTLING SWAN. *S'p'k-a-mi'* (S.); *uoid't* (P.); *pał'-do-shi'* (Sh.).
45. *Chen caerulescens* (Linn.) Ridgw. BLUE-WINGED GOOSE. *Kũ-si''uq* (S.); *ne'-git* (P.); *na'-gunt* (Sh.).
46. *Bernicla brenta* (Pall.) Steph. BRANT. *Pe-gu-kuá'-tsi* (P.).
47. *Aix sponsa* (Linn.) Boie. WOOD DUCK. *Pi-hi'* (P.) Also used as a generic term for all Ducks.
48. *Æthya americana* (Eyt.) Bp. REDHEAD. *Nô-sô'-shî-ně'* (S.).
49. *Colymbus torquatus* Brünn. LOON. *O-sű'-l'uq* (S.).